

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

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WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

The People's Rights—A Representative Democracy—The Union and the Constitution Without Any Infractions.

VOL. L. NO. 39 WHOLE NO. 4490.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1913.

Seals of the North Pacific



BULL WITH 22 COWS

UNDER the terms of a treaty concluded at Washington by the United States, Great Britain, Russia and Japan, the fur seals of the north Pacific ocean are destined to obtain for the first time a form of protection that recent experience has shown to be absolutely essential for the conservation of the seal herds. The agreement between these four great powers prohibits for a period of 15 years the indiscriminate slaughter of seals while at sea, and places the legitimate killing of surplus seals on land under the immediate control of the nations having sovereignty over the islands to which the seals resort for breeding purposes. The nations which may be said to hold a kind of property right in fur seal herds are the United States, Russia and Japan. The interests of Great Britain in this matter arise from the existence of an extensive fleet of sealing vessels that for many years have been operating from British Columbia ports off the coasts of America, Russia and Japan.

Although fur seals are found in both the northern and southern hemispheres, the largest herds are those of the north Pacific, which represent three closely-related species distinguished by peculiarities in form, physiognomy and pelage, and known as the Alaskan, Russian and Japanese fur seals respectively. The herds roam widely on the high seas, and their water habitats approach one another if they do not overlap; but the different species do not associate, and always resort for breeding purposes to particular islands. It is this habit which gives certain nations a temporary jurisdiction and control over them, and has created several international complications.

Go Far South.

The Japanese fur seal, which is the least abundant, never visits any land except Robben reef and some tiny islands of the Kuril chain. The Russian fur seal, the next in abundance, never resorts to any shores except those of the Commander Islands, lying far off the east coast of Kamchatka. The Alaskan fur seal, far more numerous than the others, roams over a large part of the eastern Pacific ocean as far south as southern California, and makes an annual pilgrimage to the Pribilof Islands in Bering sea. These islands, which came to the United States in 1867, when Russia ceded jurisdiction over Alaska, and the seal land resort of the Alaskan fur seal have brought on the country much domestic and international turmoil. It is a cause for great satisfaction in the United States, as it must be also in the other countries involved, that the statesmanship has prevailed over an untoward influence that may have prevented an earlier settlement of the fur seal question, and has resulted in this convention, which insures the rescue of the depleted fur seal herds of both America and Asia from commercial extinction.

Although the seals are easily killed by the methods adopted by man for their destruction on sea and land, they are capable of withstanding great privation and of undergoing extraordinary muscular exertion. To maintain themselves during the winter without resorting to land is in itself no small accomplishment for all breathing, land-breeding animals. The females, leaving the islands in November, go further south than any other members of the herd, and in December appear off southern California, where they remain until March. They then begin their long return journey, reaching the islands early in June. The seals subsist chiefly on squid, but also on smelt, herring, salmon and other kinds of fish, which are caught and eaten in the water.

Easy for the Males.

The bachelor seals, having few responsibilities and cares, require less food than the mother seals, and make less frequent and less expeditious trips to the feeding grounds. They pass much of their time sleeping on land or playing in the water near the shores. The old bulls, however, have the most extraordinary vitality. Arriving on the islands about May 1, they remain constantly on land until the last of July or the early part of August without eating a single thing or even drinking, but living on the great amount of fat they have stored up while at sea. During all this time they maintain most vigilant watch over their harem, whether human or others, and to fight their rivals to a finish.

PROPER DEALING OF JUSTICE

Judge's Stern Rebuke of Would-Be Briber Accompanied With Appropriate Reduction of "Back."

The justice of the peace was in a marked state of ignorance. He was approached by a man desiring a divorce, and he did not know what to do. Calling a friend to his side, he whispered: "What's the law on this point?" "You can't do it," was the reply. "It's out of your jurisdiction." The husband, observing the consultation, and feeling keenly his desire to escape from the matrimonial yoke, explained:

"I'm willing to pay well; got the money right here in my sock."

At this juncture the justice assumed his gravest judicial air. Obviously he was deeply pained. Never before in all his life had he been so bowed down by grief.

"You knew before you came here," he said sadly, "that it wasn't for me to separate husband and wife, and yet you not only take up the valuable time of this court by talking, but you actually propose to bribe me with money. Now, how much have you got in that sock?"

"About \$5.50, your honor."

"Is that so? Then I fine you \$5 for bribery and \$1.50 for taking up my time with a case out of my jurisdiction; and may the Lord have mercy on your soul!"—Popular Magazine.

HAD IT PROPERLY NAMED

English Sailor May Have Forgotten Politeness, but He Had Appropriately Designated Dish.

A certain London clergyman who had been traveling in Greece found himself compelled to stay the night at a monastery at Mount Athos. The welcome was warm, but the food execrable. In particular the soup, which the guest could hardly force himself to swallow. Being a classical scholar, his knowledge of ancient Greek helped him to some understanding of the monks, who spoke the widely different modern tongue, and he was astonished to hear that the unpalatable soup was an English dish.

"English!" cried one of the monks, adding that an English sailor had been there not long before and recognized it.

"What did he call it?" asked the clergyman.

The monk had to think for a moment before he could recollect the strange English name of that soup. Ah! he had it. It was "bees' muck!"

Mechanical Horse.

A real "mechanical horse" is being experimented with abroad. It is a "tractor" that is easily hitched to any horse-drawn vehicle, just as a team of horses may be, and combines all the advantages of the horse with those of the auto truck at an exceedingly low price. The outfit comprises a steel bar and coupler and sprocket wheels designed to be attached to the wheels and tongue of the wagon. There is only one wheel on the "horse" and that is at the front, the most of the support for the tractor depending upon the front wagon wheels by which it is driven. The engine, mounted under the front hood as in an automobile, is of 40 or 50 horse power and drives the wagon at a speed of from 8 to 30 miles an hour, the latter speed only being used when it is designed for fire engine service. The front wheel is used to steer, and it allows a turn being made at an angle of 85 degrees, thus giving remarkable turning ability in narrow streets. One of the greatest advantages of the "mechanical horse" is the fact that it may be kept constantly at work while unloading or loading is going on.

Cement Gun.

There is a cement gun which is used to apply a mortar covering to structural steel work. A mixture of dry sand and cement is shot from a nozzle by compressed air. A second hose delivers to the same nozzle a supply of water under pressure, and the mixture of sand, cement and water is shot out with a velocity of about 350 feet a second. The gun is designed to produce a thorough wetting of the material. As the mixture strikes the surface to be covered, the coarse sand grains rebound until the fine cement mortar, which adheres immediately, has formed a plastic base in which the coarse particles become imbedded. A covering of any required thickness is then rapidly built up.

One of these guns has been used on the Panama canal in covering the sides of the Culebra cut with cement to prevent the unstable earth from sliding into the canal.

Nero's Claim to Distinction.

Aubrey Beardsley, the famous artist, once outshone Oscar Wilde, who was the greatest wit and conversationalist that ever lived. At a dinner at which both were guests Wilde talked interestingly on Nero for nearly two hours. When he concluded, Beardsley, who was only a boy, spoke up:

"Mr. Wilde," he said, "you have forgotten to mention Nero's greatest religious achievement."

"I must confess I do not know to what you are referring," admitted Wilde.

"I am referring to his action of pouring oil on Christians and setting fire to them," said Beardsley. "Wasn't it Nero who lighted the first fires of Christianity that illuminated the world?"

DREADNOUGHT OUT OF DATE

British Ship of That Name Assigned to Fourth Battle Fleet—Was Built Six Years Ago.

London.—How fleeting is the glory of the modern fighting ship is illustrated in the case of the British battleship Dreadnought, the building of which, as a result of the report of the British naval attaches who accompanied Admiral Togo's fleet in the first naval battles in the Gulf of Tsushima against the Pacific fleet of Russia, caused a revolution in battleship construction.

This once proud vessel is now considered so far out of date that she is being removed from the first battle squadron and assigned to the fourth battle squadron, which is based on Gibraltar. The Dreadnought has been in commission less than six years, and while not considered obsolete is more outclassed by the latest ships than were the pre-Dreadnoughts glanced by her when she was first built.

A few weeks ago the battleship King George V. was commissioned. She has a broadside of no less than 14,000 pounds. This gives her a superiority of 106 per cent. over the Dreadnought, which was only 28 per cent. better than the last pre-Dreadnought. The new armored cruisers even are 50 per cent. more powerful than the Dreadnought. No British armored ship is reckoned effective today that has been launched over 18 years.

At the battle of Trafalgar the 27 British ships averaged 27 years from the date of launching. The Victory herself was 50 years old.

THIEF PUT BLAME ON MOUSE

Confessed Forger Tells How His Mother's Fright Before His Birth Marked Him.

New York.—That a mouse running up his mother's skirt two months before he was born left him with a birthmark of a rodent's figure on his leg and an irresistible impulse to steal was the unique defense offered in court the other day by Edward H. Huppe, after confessing to forging a check on the Corn Exchange bank for \$90. He said he has also served a term in the Elmira reformatory for theft.

Huppe is a well-to-do young German, who came to this country from Oldenburg, Germany. He said he became converted to Christian Science last fall, and after overcoming his parental influence to steal resolved to confess to the forgery and start life with a clean slate.

The young man rolled up his trouser leg and showed a birthmark on a right calf which closely resembled a picture of a mouse.

"My crimes were like those of a mouse, always stealing—stealing things I did not need," said Huppe. He was remanded to the Tombs for examination by alienists.

HEN TRIES TO HANG ITSELF

Conscience Stricken Because It Failed to Lay Its Share of High-Priced Eggs.

Tarrytown, N. Y.—Mary, the pet hen of Miss Hannah Mace of North Tarrytown, attempted suicide. Miss Mace gravely insists that Mary was conscience stricken, because, at the high price of eggs, she had not been able to contribute her share.

"Mary became despondent, and for a week she picked up on a wire fence, and then sticking her head through one of the holes, jumped off. There she was slowly strangling to death, when her owner, attracted by the other chickens cackling and making a great noise in the yard, ran out and rescued her pet."

To a reporter Miss Mace said:

"Mary was hit by an automobile some months ago, and since that time she has not been able to lay any eggs."

"Mary became despondent, and for a week she picked up on a wire fence, and then sticking her head through one of the holes, jumped off. There she was slowly strangling to death, when her owner, attracted by the other chickens cackling and making a great noise in the yard, ran out and rescued her pet."

HUNTERS BATTLE WITH FIRE

Society Men and Women See Fine Residence Destroyed Near Baltimore, Md.

Baltimore, Md.—Within a short distance from Avalon inn, burned to the ground last summer, the home of Mrs. Frank Baldwin caught fire and was destroyed. The estate lies just west of Chantlance and near Fochelton station. The house was one of the finest in the famous Green Spring Valley, and very near the home of Walter Brooke, Jr., son-in-law of Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury of Philadelphia. The damage will amount to about \$30,000.

The fire was discovered in the roof of the house by members of the Green Spring Valley Hunt club who were just starting on a fox chase. Led by Remond C. Stewart, a brother of Plunkett Stewart, of Philadelphia, the members, including society men and women, drove their horses to the scene, and besides fighting the flames saved nearly all the furniture and valuable articles on the first and second floors.

Bobsled Cupid's Aid.

New York.—Cupid was a member of the party of forty youth and members from the fashionable section of the Bronx who went sleighing. When the party returned four of its members announced their engagement.

"DOPE" FIEND IN SHY

Quick Witted and Dangerous Persons Who Use Cocaine.

Many Are Said to Have Become Addicted to the Habit Through a Mere Toothache—Efforts Being Made to Stamp Out Evil.

New York.—Disclosures made before the grand jury of Kings county recently and inquiries at police headquarters reveal that the illicit sale of cocaine has grown so rapidly during the last two years that it stands at the head of the list of drugs which are sold illegally throughout the city. The police record for 1911 shows five arrests and three convictions for selling the drug. Forty-three indictments returned by the grand jury in Brooklyn in the last two months and 26 cases brought into court by Manhattan detectives show that the crusade against the evil is bearing fruit.

Two detectives who have been busy running down illegal sellers of the drug for the last seven or eight years told recently of eccentricities of the victims. "It is a strange thing," said one, "that more than two-thirds of the men who sell the drug illegally are numbered among the victims. Negroes are addicted to the habit to a great degree. In fact, it was in the south that the habit of snuffing the drug first came to light. In New York city there are hundreds who have become victims through a mere toothache."

"In running down those who violated the penal code in selling the drug I have found the cocaine victim to be a quick-witted and dangerous person. I recall one place in particular in lower Third avenue, where I took part in a raid on a saloon, and found four drug users. One had silver buckles on his suspenders and the buckles were in box form and contained grains of the stuff. Another had a seal ring, the top of which opened on a hinge and the inside was filled with cocaine. I entered a poolroom near Chatham square looking for cocaine and was sure that the 'white stuff' was sold on the premises. I searched for several hours, and finally came upon several books. A hole into the center of the leaves about an inch square was used as a depository for the drug. If the 'hang-ers on' had not appeared so studious, I believe I would have been completely fooled."

The police of the large cities, from Maine to California, are fighting the evil. In Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Denver, Salt Lake City and San Francisco the increased sale of cocaine has made the police suspicious, and they are trying to discover the medium through which the drug reaches the underworld. The temptation to sell the drug illegally is due to the enormous profit derived. The average cost of the drug at wholesale is about \$3 an ounce, and it sells at the rate of \$16 an ounce.

APPLAUSE MADE SHAW ANGRY

But a London Audience Wouldn't Keep Quiet at Play Revived at Kingsway Theater.

London.—George Bernard Shaw's appeal to audiences for "sobriety" was in vain at the first performance of his play, "John Bull's Other Island," which was revived at the Kingsway theater.

The audience tried to comply, but the witticisms of the play were too much for a majority of them and solitary guffaws more rapidly merged into general roars.

Mr. Shaw appeared in advance for the cessation of applause and told the people that they would get out of the theater half an hour earlier if they did not applaud until the end of the play; "that if you laugh loudly and repeatedly for two hours you get tired and cross, and that you are sorry the next morning that you did not stay home."

"Have you noticed," he wrote, "that people look very nice when they smile or look pleased, but are shockingly ugly when they roar with laughter, shout excitedly or sob loudly. Will you think me very ungrateful and unkind if I tell you that though you cannot possibly applaud my plays too much at the fall of the curtain, yet the more you applaud the performance the more angry you make me?"

SEES WIFE, MIND RETURNS

Voice and Face of Woman Bring Memory Back to Resident of Elyria, O.

Cleveland.—Sight of his wife's face and the sound of her voice brought memory back to Sherwood Anderson, painter of Elyria, O., who appeared the day before in a dazed condition at the drug store of J. H. Robinson, No. 785 East 152d street.

He talked incoherently and the druggist called a doctor, who took the man to Huron Road Hospital. There his identity was learned.

He had disappeared from his home four days ago and had been wandering ever since. His wife, who has been searching for him, hurried to Cleveland. The doctors say his condition is the result of overwork.

Celebrate Ninety-Fourth Birthday.

Babylon, N. Y.—Samuel and William Muncy, regarded as the world's oldest twins, celebrated their ninety-fourth birthday recently.

MORE SCHOOLS IN RUSSIA

Czar's Policy Gives Impetus to Popular Education—Big Gain in Last Fifteen Years.

St. Petersburg.—Popular education in Russia is making rapid strides in advance; so much so that the next statistics of people who can neither read nor write, not long ago officially estimated at 60 per cent. of the total population, will certainly indicate a notable decrease. In the last fifteen years public instruction has immensely improved.

The existing system of state schools was founded in the second half of the nineteenth century, when the edict of the abolition of serfdom appeared. Until the year 1860 Russia only had 4,077 public schools. When, in 1864, the zemstvos were established, the number of schools increased rapidly and at the end of the sixties there were in Russia 22,770 schools with 1,140,915 pupils.

Under Alexander III. popular education made further advances, and at the end of his reign the number of schools had reached 43,285 with 2,970,000 pupils. Under the present czar educational matters have received increased attention. Thus the schools opened by the zemstvos were granted a state subsidy of \$190 for every fifty pupils, while the teachers got increases in salary.

At the present time there are in Russia 100,295 elementary schools and 6,180,510 pupils. Of these schools 59,910 have been opened under the reign of Nicholas II., the present czar. In the same period the number of industrial schools has risen from 1,333 to 2,748. A teacher in the state schools now begins on a salary of \$172 a year. After five years he draws \$200, after ten years \$220 and the maximum is only \$270 a year.

JEZREEL TEMPLE IS FOR SALE

Famous as Home of English Sect Which Put Ban on Barbers—Founder Said He Would Live Forever.

London, England.—The famous Jezreel temple at Chatham has been offered for sale. The building, which is a conspicuous landmark, was begun in 1822 by a British soldier named White, who, after an attack of sunstroke in India, proclaimed himself the prophet of a new religion and adopted the name of "James Hershon Jezreel."

An article of the new faith was that none of its disciples should visit a barber, and the Jezreelites rapidly became known in the locality and beyond it. "Jezreel" gathered hundreds of followers and organized a little colony of farms and workshops, out of which he made a fortune. He began the construction of the temple with the object of accommodating 5,000 of the faithful of the 144,000 who were to be saved when the end of the world came.

He promised his followers that he would live forever, but he died before the tower was finished. It remained unfinished today despite the fact that over \$200,000 was spent on it. The building remained unoccupied until 1906, when it was taken by an American named Mills, who adopted the title of "Prince Michael," and proclaimed himself the successor of "Jezreel." About three years ago "Prince Michael's" followers were evicted, having failed to pay the rent to the owner, a contractor who had taken over the building on the death of "Jezreel."

FURS IN SPITE OF WARMTH

Parisian Women Have Separate Sets for Different Occasions During the Day.

Paris.—Despite the mildness of the winter, Parisians have never worn such a wealth of furs as are now displayed by those who can afford them. Women wear separate sets of furs for morning, afternoon and evening wear. Before noon astrachan is worn. When madame goes shopping or makes calls in the afternoon she prefers mink or skunk. In the evening she has a decolette costume lightly trimmed with ermine, white fox or chinchilla.

The complexion of the wearer must be taken into account, for, while southern beauties enjoy the advantage of looking well in all kinds of furs, the women with fair hair looks best in blue fox, mole skin or some gray fur. Chestnut hair harmonizes with skunk, while other goes with auburn tresses.

MAGNET HAD DEATH GRIP

Laborer Carrying a Steel Plate Was Picked Up and Drapped by Powerful Machine.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—While carrying a steel plate across the mill yard at the Amberg plant Joseph Stedler, 33 years old, got within the zone of influence of a powerful magnet which was unloading scrap-iron from a freight car.

The magnet suddenly drew upward the plate which Stedler had on his shoulder, and to which he held tightly. When the workman's feet left the ground he yelled. The man struggling the magnet shut off the current. The steel plate dropped, with Stedler underneath. He was crushed so severely that he died an hour later in the Allegheny General Hospital.

Planned to Rob Squirrels.

Chicago.—Bernard Rogers, a ragged eighty-year-old boy was found in a Chicago park watching squirrels burying peanuts and planning to steal their store. He was starving.

NO PLACE FOR POOR

Mining at Dawson Available Only to Men With Big Capital.

Pioneer Says There Are Sections of the Yukon That Have Not Yet Been Scratched by Prospectors.

New York.—Henry Pinkert, who used to be a merchant in San Francisco and went to the Klondike in 1897 and has been in business in or around Dawson City ever since, advised recently at the Besslin. He says there are no mining opportunities in the immediate neighborhood of Dawson, except for men and companies with big capital.

"Dawson is not growing," said Mr. Pinkert. "In the early days there were all kinds of mining right there on the ground for the individual, but now, for a radius of about 50 miles around the town, the territory is so worked out that only big corporations can make money working it, and these have taken up a great deal of the land. The biggest operations in the neighborhood are being carried on by a South African company, which owns or practically controls all the claims within that 50-mile radius that the Guggenheims do not control."

"In the days of the gold rush a man would stake his claim, which would run 500 feet. The moment he got that worked down to low grade he was up against a proposition that required dredges and hydraulic machinery to work on a profitable basis. The majority of small claimholders sold out and some gave options. A few are still holding out for their prices. The government gives a man the right to hold his claim so long as \$200 worth of work is done on it in a year."

"But the situation at Dawson does not end the Klondike for the prospector by any means. I should say that part of Yukon territory is still in its infancy as a gold producer, in spite of the millions that have been taken out. The great difficulty has been getting into the interior. Small boats go up the streams now for hundreds of miles, but still there are regions practically unprospected. In the past few years the Canadian government has helped transportation by subsidizing these craft, and this makes it possible for miners to carry up their grub in the fall and continue their work in the winter. In my opinion, one of these days we shall hear of discoveries up there that will make the Klondike finds seem insignificant. From Dawson to White Horse it is 410 miles and there are numerous regions on both sides of the way that never have been prospected."

"We lost a lot of prospectors eight or nine years ago. They went over the border into Alaska, where they seem to have done well. These included some of the best of our prospectors. Still about 250 men are working on Stoll's creek this winter. They take out the frozen soil by thawing with steam and using pickaxes, pile it up and then put it in the sluice boxes for washing in summer."

"Dredges are now working longer in the neighborhood of Dawson than used to be possible. Of course, you cannot work a dredge in winter unless you boil the water about it to keep it from freezing. The dredge has to be turned around in order to be used. Before they got to doing this a dredge could not start to work until June 15, and it had to shut down in September. Now it can begin work May 1 and continue until the end of the year."

"Commercially, there is nothing doing in Dawson. Still, the business people there are in fine condition. 'The dance hall element and all the undesirable part of the former population of Dawson have been weeded out,' added Mr. Pinkert, 'and today the town is as clean as any in the world.'"

PARROT FAILS AS WATCHDOG

Polly Couldn't Call "Burglars! Burglars!" and Now Lies Dead at Allentown, Pa.

Allentown, Pa.—Burglars entered the home of Thomas Stern, and before attempting to rob the house I took the precaution to strangle the family parrot, which the Sterns had installed as a watchdog, believing the bird to be better than any canine as a guardian of the family at night. The Sterns, however, neglected to teach Polly to squeak "Burglars! Burglars!"

In the night members of the Stern family heard Polly yell "Maggie, Maggie," and then all was quiet. They thought Polly was dreaming and paid no attention to the call.

In the morning Polly was found dead in the yard. The burglars had taken the family jewelry at their leisure.

PROVIDES FOR HIS SHAFT

Will of George H. Valentine, Manufacturer of Cigars, Filed at Reading.

Reading, Pa.—The will of the late George H. Valentine, who operated cigar factories in Philadelphia, Womelsdorf and elsewhere was filed for probate in court here. The entire estate of about \$200,000 goes to the son, H. Jerry Valentine, with the exception of \$1,000, which is to be invested for the use of the Womelsdorf Cemetery Company, and to keep the decedent's monument in repair. The son is named as executor.